



**RFA# RFA-386-12-000003, Amendment #1**

**Amendment Date: June 26, 2012**

**Closing Date/Time (Rev.): July 16, 2012, 1000 Hrs. New Delhi Time**

**SUBJECT: USAID/India's South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration  
(SARI/EI) RFA # RFA-386-12-000003, Amendment #1**

The RFA is amended to (1) extend the closing date & time; and (2) include the following Questions and Answers.

**I. Changes to RFA**

The Closing time & date for the RFA is hereby extended to 1000 Hrs. on July 16, 2012 (New Delhi Time). Both Electronic copies as well the Hard copies of cost & technical application must reach at stated address in the RFA by 1000 Hrs. on July 16, 2012 (New Delhi Time).

**II. Questions & Answers**

Question 1: Will there be USAID Country Coordinators (CCOs) involved in the SARI/EI program? If so, what will be their USAID role/function?

**ANSWER: USAID Country Coordinators (CCOs) will be involved in the SARI/EI program. The SARI/EI CCOs are the field-level officials having extensive contacts among principal stakeholders in their respective countries. The recipient will be able to approach them for support in selecting the right participants, co-ordination, and logistical arrangements for the events.**

Question 2: Page 9 refers to the Applicant acting "as both the secretariat and technical input provider for these Task Forces". Is USAID a part of the secretariat? What type of support can we expect from the USAID designated country coordinators in each of the SARI countries?

**ANSWER: The Secretariat is the organizing unit managed by the recipient to plan and execute activities in support of the SARI/EI Task Forces .USAID will not be a part of the secretariat. However, the SARI/EI regional management unit in USAID/India and/or USAID missions will participate in the programs organized by the secretariat, as and when required.**

Question 3: Are there any guidelines for Taskforce formation apart from that is indicated in the document?

**ANSWER: There are no particular guidelines apart from those mentioned in the RFA.**

Question 4: Considering the project being multi-national in nature; can two organizations jointly apply by distributing the tasks among themselves with one project Director and one, or more, program co-coordinator?

**ANSWER : Two or more organization can come together and jointly participate in an application. However one of the participating (preferably the one with a larger role) will be the Prime applicant and other organizations will be sub-awardees.**

Question 5.a: When you say “applicants must be legally established non-governmental entities and individuals,” do you mean that the RFA is restricted only to applicants who are non-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals? **OR**, is the RFA open to for-profit applicants (companies and corporations) who will not charge a fee/profit?

b. Whether only non-profit organizations are eligible to apply or can a private institution or individual consultant also apply?

c. In the eligibility information, it was only mentioned that “Applicants must be legally established non-governmental entities and individuals, otherwise there is no restriction”. Can you please confirm if a private limited (for Profit Company) registered in India is eligible to submit a bid for this proposal.

d. Is it requirement to be a consortium to be eligible to apply or can any individual organization apply? Also, if there is a consortium, should the lead organization be a nonprofit organization?

**ANSWER : Any U.S. or non-U.S. organization, individual, non-profit, or for-profit entity is eligible to apply (Authorized Geographic Code 937). Note that no profit or fee is allowed under assistance programs like this Request for Application (RFA). [22 CFR 226.81, “Prohibition Against Profit,”](#) prohibits profit to recipients and subrecipients of USAID assistance awards. Also, forgone profit does not qualify as cost-sharing or leveraging.**

Question 6: Page 23; are the 424 forms only for the prime to complete or for all subcontractors – including major subcontractors?

**Answer: Standard Form 424 & 424A are required for Prime only. However, the Prime’s detailed budget with one or more proposed major sub-awardees, must**

**include separate budget(s) for each of the proposed major sub-awardee providing the breakdown of the sub-award cost included in Prime's budget.**

Question 7: Page 22 calls for a description of the roles and responsibilities of long-term non-key personnel. May we include an annex that briefly describes the qualifications of people we propose for these and short-term positions?

**ANSWER: No, please include the required information under Management Plan as part of the Technical application within the prescribed page limitation.**

Question 8: Pages 22, 23, 29, and 30; we are unclear about the distinction between the past experience and past performance discussions for the body of the technical application. On page 22, Past Experience is labeled section "iv" and past experience is labeled as the next section "i" but on page 23 each section is referred to as "IV". On page 29, the two sections are listed in the reverse order with separate technical evaluation scores. Page 30; both sections are to discuss "similar programs, partnerships, alliances, projects of activities that involved planning, oversight and facilitation of regional programs". Please clarify?

**ANSWER: The RFA is modified to correct the Sequential numbering on Page 22 as follows:**

- iii. Management Plan**
- iv. Past Experience; and**
- v. Past Performance.**

**On page 29, the Evaluation Criteria are listed in descending order of their importance/weight. Past Experience & Past Performance are two distinct evaluation criteria under this RFA. Under Past experience, the applicant shall provide information on its past experience in similar programs. Whereas, under past performance, the applicant shall demonstrate how well they performed in implementation of the programs, projects etc., in terms of achieving program objectives, timeliness, cost effectiveness etc.**

Question 9: Please explain AWARD ADMINISTRATION on Page 15 of RFA.

**ANSWER: The paragraph is self-explanatory, you are encouraged to visit the links provided in the paragraph to review information in detail.**

Question 10: As for budgeting, we are cognisant of the fact that the project covers 8 nations and we assume that the budget is specified in USD. In order to put together a high quality team, we have to hire consultant from Australia and/or U.S./Canada. Are there any remuneration rules and guidelines for consultants and how they may be allocated for key roles on the project?

**ANSWER: Applicant must follow its own established policies and procedures in terms of salary rates for hiring employees or consultants. Besides the above, the rates proposed must be fair and reasonable given the market rates for the professional labor category and the proposed individuals' salary or consultant fee rate, as the case may be.**

Question 11: Closing date is 1000 Hrs. New Delhi time on July 10, 2012. To allow all Applicants the benefit of transit time in order to prepare the best possible application, could USAID please revise that date and time for the electronic version by email, with hard copy versions to be delivered by courier up to one week after that?

**ANSWER: Both electronic and hard copies must be submitted by closing date and time. Please refer to Paragraph I "Changes to RFA" for extension of the closing date and time.**

Question 12: What accounting standard does USAID utilize in establishing Indirect Cost Rates? Reference is made to NICRA in Section K, page 45, but we do not see a definition of NICRA.

**ANSWER: NICRA is "Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement". In case your organization has an established NICRA with any US federal agency, please use the indirect rates per your NICRA.**

Question 13: Are there specific or advised guidelines for local or regional partner content (budget-wise or time-wise)?

**ANSWER: There are no additional guidelines other than those given (if any) in RFA.**

Question 14: Similarly, any specific guidelines for US content of advisory services?

**ANSWER: There are no additional guidelines other than those given (if any) in RFA.**

Question 15: Are any of the South Asian countries specifically excluded from this regional grid integration and common market rules initiative?

**ANSWER : South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI) includes only the following countries:**

**Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Maldives.**

Question 16: Is prior USAID experience a prerequisite to achieve a strong mark on the Past Experience and Past Performance Evaluation Criteria, or does USAID recognize comparable projects with other governmental, quasi-governmental or private clients as an acceptable standard for gauging prior experience and past performance?

**ANSWER: No, prior USAID experience is not a pre-requisite. Please refer to Section IV "Application & Submission Information" and Section V "Application Review Information/Evaluation Criteria" in the RFA.**

Question 17: Are there prohibitions in from another unit of our company pursuing equipment or other service sales that may be originated from this advisory engagement?

**ANSWER: The recipient will be required to be responsive to the activities and project outcomes as detailed in the program description set out in the RFA. Marketing of services and products by the recipient on behalf of another unit of the recipient company is not envisaged in the program description.**

Question 18: Will any further changes in schedule or other terms and conditions of this RFA be provided via email notice to respondent?

**ANSWER: We do not anticipate any changes in the schedule, timeline or content of the RFA. If such changes are made, the same shall be posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).**

Except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the subject RFA remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

End of Amendment #1

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